

LITTLE STAR HR. SEC. SCHOOL

English II Class 6

Lesson-4 Articles



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- What do you see in the picture?

Can you see **a** boy, **an** umbrella and **the** sun?

Observe the highlighted words.

Do you know what they are?

They are called ARTICLES

[You can click on this link for LSHSS Learning material on Articles prepared for Class 2 for a quick review](#)

A, an and the are called articles.

Articles

An article is a word that comes before a noun.



the boy



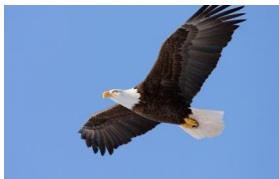
a bee



an apple



a cap



an eagle

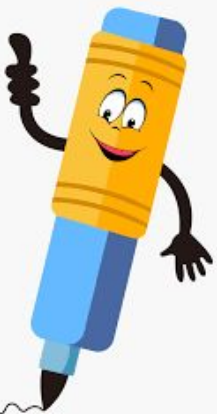


The India Gate

Indefinite Articles

‘A’ and ‘an’ are called indefinite articles as we use them to refer to something, in general.

Eg. Give me **a** pen.
(You can give me any pen.)



Definite Articles

- ‘The’ is called a definite article as we use it to refer to something, in particular.

*E.g. Give me **the** pen that I gave you yesterday.*

(Here, I’m asking for the pen that I gave you yesterday.)



Definite Articles and Indefinite Article

The Articles



indefinite article

I'm not **a** troublemaker.

"I'm not any old troublemaker."

definite article

I'm **the** troublemaker.

"I'm the one you've all heard of."



[Click on the link for video on Articles](#)



More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com



A and An

- Use 'a' before consonant sounds.
- Use 'an' before vowel sounds



HOW TO USE A-AN

Usage

- Used before words beginning with a consonant sound



a man



a lamp



a cat

- Used before words that begin with a vowel sound.



an apple



an eraser



an umbrella



A cat



A dog



A boy



A girl



A house

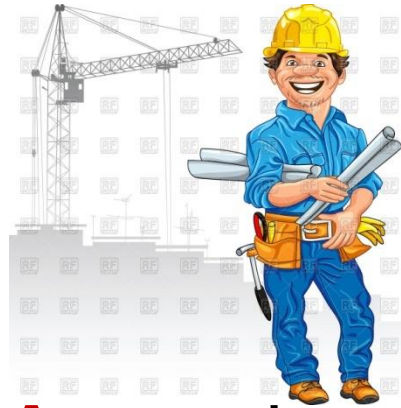


A tree

- All these words starts with consonant sounds. **Cat** with /**k**/, **dog** with /**d**/, **boy** with /**b**/, **girl** with /**g**/, **house** with /**h**/ and **tree** with /**t**/.



An apple



An engineer



An ice-cream



An old man



An umbrella

- And all these words begin with vowel sounds. **Apple** with /**ae**/, **engineer** with /**e**/, **ice-cream** with /**ai**/, **old man** with /**o**/ and **umbrella** starts with /**uh**/.



Let's do an exercise

- For each one, I want you to say if you would use 'a' or 'an'.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. _____ elephant | 6. _____ interesting story |
| 2. _____ car | 7. _____ university |
| 3. _____ teacher | 8. _____ European |
| 4. _____ onion | 9. _____ hour |
| 5. _____ spinach omelette | 10. _____ M.A in English |

Answers

1. **An** elephant
2. **A** car
3. **A** teacher
4. **An** onion
5. **A** spinach omelet
6. **An** interesting story
7. **A** university (starts with the consonant sound 'you' or /y/)
8. **A** European (starts with the consonant sound 'you' or /y/)
9. **An** hour (starts with the vowel sound /au/)
10. **An** M.A in English (starts with the vowel sound /ae/)





Countable Nouns

- Nouns you can count
- you can use a / an in front of countable nouns
- Nouns that have a plural form.

examples:



a book



an elephant



a chair



a car





Uncountable Nouns

- Nouns you can't count.
- Normally , you can't use a / an in front of uncountable nouns
- Nouns that normally don't have a plural form.

examples:



Butter



milk furniture



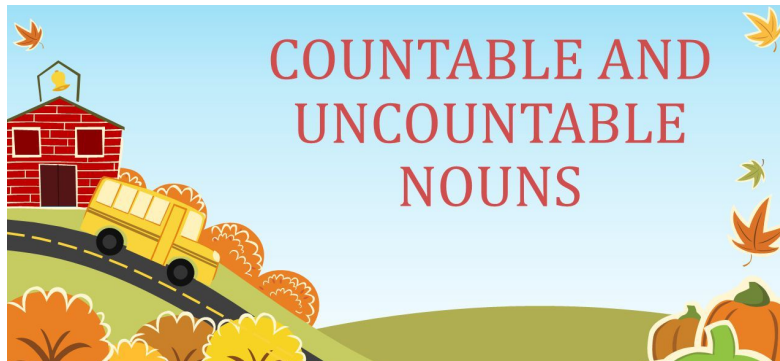
Use a or an only with countable nouns

Countable nouns

- **An** elephant
- **A** car
- **A** teacher
- **An** onion
- **A** spinach omelet

Uncountable nouns

- a water (x)
- a sugar (x)
- an oil (x)
- a milk (x)
- an air (x)



Here are five items again, you see 'a' or 'an' before them, but some of these are wrong.

So identify the errors.

- A cell phone
- An easy question
- An orange shirts
- A pretty woman
- A happiness



Answers

- **A** cell phone (Correct)
- **An** easy question (Correct)
- **An** orange shirts (It's wrong, as it is plural.)
- **A** pretty woman (Correct)
- **A** happiness (It's wrong, as it is uncountable)



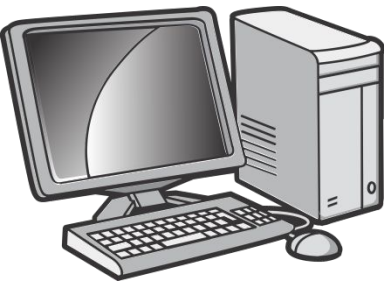
□ Use 'a' or 'an' to talk about a person or thing **unknown** to your listener.
Use 'the' to talk about a person or a thing **known** to your listener.



- E.g. My sister has two computers:
a PC and **a** laptop.
The PC is quite old but **the** laptop is brand new.

I said, “**a** PC and **a** laptop”
because that’s the first time I am
mentioning about the two
computers.

Next, I said, “**the** Pc and **the**
laptop” because now, you
know which PC and laptop I
am talking about.



Here is another example. Now, can you fill in the gaps?

- I planted _____ tree in my garden last year. _____ tree has now grown big.



- I need to go back home. I think I left _____ stove on.

Answers

- I planted **a** tree in my garden last year. **The** tree has now grown big.

(When I mentioned the tree for the first time, I said '**a** tree'. But, the next time, you know which tree I am talking about , so I said '**the** tree'.)

- I need to go back home. I think I left **the** stove on.

(Which stove? You know I am talking about the stove at my home.)

Some More Examples

- **The** man in the black suit is my boss.
(Which man? **The** man in the black suit)
- Where is **the** money that I lent you last week?
(Which money? **The** money that I lent you last week)



Use 'a' or 'an' with non-specific things

- He wants to go to **a** library now. (it means any library will do, not any particular one)
- She asked Alex to pass her **a** book. (refers to any book, not a specific one)
- The teacher asked Alex to share **an** interesting story with the class. (here, it can be any interesting story)



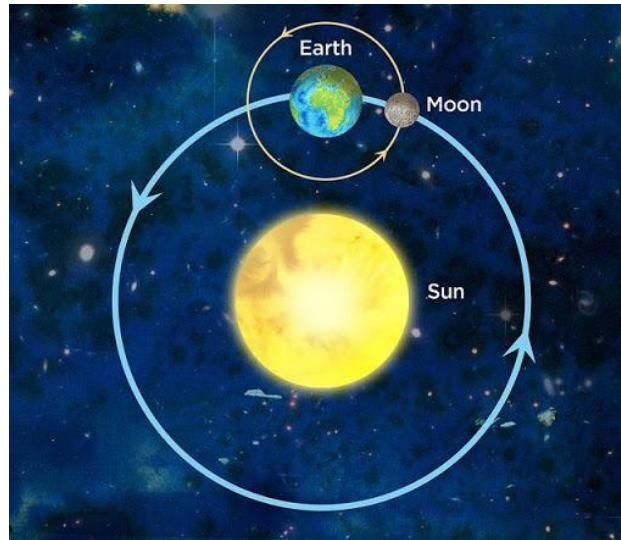
Fill in the gaps with appropriate articles. If no article is required, put x. (pg.35)

1. This is _____ ostrich.
2. I just finished reading _____ book.
3. The students need help with shifting _____ furniture.
4. We need to take the patient to _____ hospital.
5. Rima wants _____ boiled egg for breakfast.
6. Please bring me _____ umbrella.
7. Rahul is _____ naughty.
8. Diya's elder sister is studying in _____ university in the USA.
9. I need to buy _____ meat.

Usage of the Definite Article 'The'



Use 'the' before nouns that are specific & unique.



- **The** Earth revolves around **the** Sun.

(Here, we are talking about the Sun and the Earth of our solar system. They are specific and unique.)

- **The** moon gives us light.

(Here also, we are talking about the moon of the planet Earth. It is specific and unique.)

‘The’ is used to refer to the people of a country, a region or a class of people.

- The Gujaratis
- The Nagas
- The Punjabis
- The Indians



- The Rich
- The Poor



'The' is used before ordinals such as first/second/third/next.

e.g. **The** first letter of the English alphabet is A. **The** next letter is B and **the** last letter is Z.

'The' is used before adjectives in superlative degree.

E.g. Tom is **the** funniest boy in our class.

My grandmother is **the** oldest in our family.



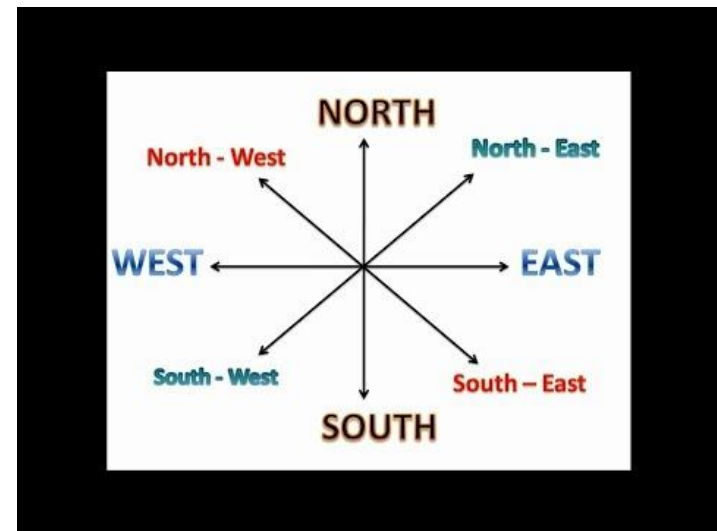
'The' is used before the names of rivers, seas, oceans, deserts and forests.

- **The** Brahmaputra
- **The** Pacific Ocean
- **The** Red Sea
- **The** Sahara desert
- **The** Amazon Rainforest



'The' is used before the names of mountain ranges and the directions.

- **The** Himalayas
- **The** Alps
- **The** east
- **The** west
- **The** north-east



Remember to add 'the' when talking about an entire class of musical instruments.

- He plays the piano.
(He can play any piano).
- He is learning the guitar.
- (He is learning to play any **guitar**).



More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com



'The' is also used before the names of newspapers, trains and ships

- **The** Nagaland Post
- **The** Rajdhani Express
- **The** Titanic



'The' is used before the names of famous buildings, monuments & paintings.



The White House



The Taj Mahal



The Qutub
Minar



The Last Supper

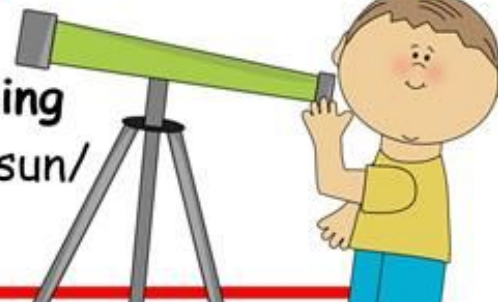


The Mona Lisa

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com

Definite Article 'the' Usage

1. before specific countable and uncountable nouns- singular and plural: **the** soap/**the** dog/**the** cats
2. something or someone already mentioned
3. before the superlative: **the** best student in the class
4. musical instruments- **the** guitar/**the** piano
5. nationalities: **the** Greeks, **the** French
6. family names: **the** Browns, **the** Clintons
7. hotels: **The** Ritz, **The** Grande Bretagne, **the** Hilton
8. cinemas: **The** Odean/ **The** Palace
9. newspapers: **The** New York Times/**The** Guardian
10. organizations: **The** Boy Scouts/**The** Red Cross
11. seas, rivers, oceans: **the** Aegean Sea/**the** Pacific Ocean
12. deserts: **the** Sahara Desert, **the** Gobi Desert
13. mountain ranges: **The** Alps, **The** Himalayas
14. groups of Islands: **the** Seychelles/**the** Cyclades
15. some countries: **the** USA/ **the** UK/ **the** Netherlands
16. dates: **the** first of May
17. **the** morning, **the** afternoon, **the** evening
18. before: unique people and things: **the** sun/
the moon/**the** Pope/ **the** president



However, articles are not used in certain places

Articles are not used:

- With uncountable nouns, when making a general statement.

E.g. We need **a** water to live. (**wrong**)

We need water to live. (**correct**)



- before the names of meals, if referred to, in general manner.

E.g. I usually have **the** dinner at 9pm. (**wrong**)

I usually have dinner at 9pm. (**correct**)

Articles are not used:

□ *Before the names of hours/days/months.*

e.g. She called me at **the** 9pm on **the** Friday. (**wrong**)

She called me at 9pm on Friday. (**correct**)

□ *while talking about sports.*

e.g. I like to play **the** badminton. (**wrong**)

I like to play badminton. (**correct**)



□ *Articles are not used before the names of languages or countries/states/districts.*

e.g. **The** English is the official language of **the** Nagaland. (**wrong**)

English is the official language of Nagaland. (**correct**)



However, the is used before the names of countries:

□ that have **United** or **Republic** in them

e.g. The **United** States of America

The **United** Kingdom

□ that are in **plural**

e.g. The Netherlands

The Philippines



ASSESSMENT

Now look at the questions and try to answer as many as you can. (Page 40 onwards are textbook questions and the same as those in the back of the lesson)

You can check your answers in the following pages.

[Or you can go straight to the online quiz. Click Here.](#)

In the following statements definite articles have been omitted. Insert them whenever necessary.(pg.37)

1. I learnt to play trumpet when I was 6 years old.
2. Bay of Bengal, Indian ocean and Arabian Sea are three water bodies that surround India at southeastern, south western and southern territories.
3. Taj Mahal is one of seven wonders of world.
4. Rabindranath Tagore is national poet of India. He received Nobel Prize for literature in 1913. He returned knighthood as a protest against Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919.

Fill in the gaps in the following sentences using a/an/the/x. (pg.38)

1. To get to our school, cross ____ street, walk three blocks towards ____ east and you'll see ____ the school right in ____ corner.
2. ____ elephant has escaped from ____ zoo. It has taken shelter in ____ nearby school. Everyone in ____ neighbourhood seems to be extremely scared. No one is ready to face ____ elephant. ____ zoo officials have been called to capture ____ elephant.
3. ____ trees are crucial to human existence on ____ earth. Yet we are bent upon destroying ____ forests. Indiscriminate cutting of trees in the Himalayan forest is ____ root cause of soil erosion.

Read the following story from Aesop's fable. The articles are missing in the story. Complete the story with correct articles.

____ eagle was flying high through ____ air when suddenly it heard ____ arrow whizzing in. Immediately after that it felt itself seriously wounded. It didn't know what exactly hurt it. Slowly it fluttered down to _____ earth, with its life-blood pouring out of ____ fresh wound. Trying to tend ____ wound it saw ____ arrow sticking out. While looking closely at ____ arrow _____ eagle saw _____ feather in ____ shaft of ____ arrow. _____ eagle knew it is _____ feather from its own body. It exclaimed with sorrow, "Alas! How we hand in to our enemies ____ instrument that can harm us."

Answer key (pg.35)

1. This is **an** ostrich.
2. I just finished reading **a/the** book.
3. The students need help with shifting **the** furniture.
4. We need to take the patient to **a** hospital.
5. Rima wants **an** boiled egg for breakfast.
6. Please bring me **an** umbrella.
7. Rahul is **x** naughty.
8. Diya's elder sister is studying in **a** university in the USA.
9. I need to buy **x** meat.

Answer key (pg 37) Exercise 1

1. I learnt to play **the** trumpet when I was 6 years old.
2. **The** Bay of Bengal, **the** Indian ocean and **the** Arabian Sea are **the** three water bodies that surround India at **the** south eastern, **the** south western and **the** southern territories.
3. **The** Taj Mahal is one of seven wonders of **the** world.
4. Rabindranath Tagore is **the** national poet of India. He received **the** Nobel Prize for literature in 1913. He returned **the** knighthood as a protest against **the** Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919.

Answer key (pg. 38) Exercise 2

1. To get to our school, cross **the** street, walk three blocks towards **the** east and you'll see **the** school right in **the** corner.
2. **An** elephant has escaped from **the** zoo. It has taken shelter in **a** nearby school. Everyone in **the** neighborhood seems to be extremely scared. No one is ready to face **the** elephant. **The** zoo officials have been called to capture **the** elephant.
3. **x** trees are crucial to human existence on **the** earth. Yet we are bent upon destroying **the** forests. Indiscriminate cutting of trees in the Himalayan forest is **the** root cause of soil erosion.

Answer key (pg.38) Exercise-3

An eagle was flying high through **the** air when suddenly it heard **an** arrow whizzing in. Immediately after that it felt itself seriously wounded. It didn't know what exactly hurt it. Slowly it fluttered down to **the** earth, with its life-blood pouring out of **the** fresh wound. Trying to tend **the** wound it saw **an** arrow sticking out. While looking closely at **the** arrow **the** eagle saw **a** feather in **the** shaft of **the** arrow. **The** eagle knew it is **a** feather from its own body. It exclaimed with sorrow, "Alas! How we hand in to our enemies **an** instrument that can harm us.